

# BOARD OF REGENTS FOR ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION



Enclosure 2  
November 15, 2012

## Meeting

RIDE

Thursday, November 1, 2012  
4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

## MINUTES

**Attending:** George Caruolo (chairman), Robert Carothers, Karin Forbes, Patrick Guida, Mat Santos

**Absent:** Lorne Adrain, Carolina Bernal, Colleen Callahan, Betsy Shimberg

**The meeting convened at 4:05 p.m.**

Chairman Caruolo welcomed everyone and asked for a motion to accept the agenda.

### Acceptance of Agenda

On a motion duly made by Regent Guida and seconded by Regent Forbes, it was

**VOTED:** That the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education accept the day's agenda.

Vote: 5 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: G. Caruolo, R. Carothers, K. Forbes, P. Guida, M. Santos

NAYS: 0

### Approval of Minutes

On a motion duly made by Regent Guida and seconded by Regent Carothers, it was

**VOTED:** That the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education approves the minutes of the October 18, 2012, Board of Regents Meeting.

Vote: 5 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative, as follows:

YEAS: G. Caruolo, R. Carothers, K. Forbes, P. Guida, M. Santos

NAYS: 0

### **Commissioner's Report**

In Commissioner Gist's absence, Acting Commissioner David Abbott gave an update on the following:

#### **Update on Commissioner Gist's Recovery**

Acting Commissioner Abbott began by updating the Regents on Commissioner Gist's recovery from her recent surgery: She is doing very well; she has gradually started to meet with individual staff members, offsite, to get herself up to speed on what has been happening; and we are hoping to see her back by the end of the year.

#### **Update on Hurricane Sandy**

Along with the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, and representatives from National Grid, RIDE hosted a couple of conference calls with superintendents to listen and assist with some concerns that they had raised around schools not appearing to be a high priority on the National Grid list. Unlike in prior years, this year municipalities were in charge of making and submitting their list of priorities, and, in some municipalities, schools were made less of a priority. As a result of those calls, only two schools remained closed due to power outages and they were getting their power restored that afternoon.

#### **Hope Mayoral Academy**

The Hope Mayoral Academy is proposed to open in the 2013-14 school year. RIDE has been working closely with the applicant and anticipates bringing the application to the next BOR meeting as a discussion item and requesting final approval at the end of the calendar year.

#### **Education Summit**

Acting Commissioner Abbott reported that last Thursday he, along with Senator Whitehouse, Congressman Cicilline, and members of the General Assembly, had the

opportunity to participate in an education summit entitled "Supporting the Equitable Delivery of a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Education: The Role of Policy in Latino Student Success." The event was sponsored by Senator Juan Pichardo, with support from the National Conference of State Legislatures and the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials.

### **Regents' Approved Standardized Budget Model**

The School District Accounting Compliance Act (RIGL 16-2-9.4) was amended during the last session of the General Assembly, requiring the Board of Regents to approve a standardized budget model.

This model will work hand in hand with UCOA (Uniform Chart of Accounts), and it will create the budget template that UCOA would fit into so that not only are we getting the data on revenue expenditures reported to us, but also the actual budgeting would be done in conformance with the data. This will give us much better and quicker access to more accurate and more translatable data across districts.

RIDE has done research to gather existing nationally accepted models, such as those from ASBOI (Association of School Business Officials International) and the GFOA (Government Finance Officers Association). A Budget Advisory Group has been formed and a meeting has been held with all district Business Managers during which a preliminary outline of standard budget elements was reviewed. This project will have two phases -- the first to include basic elements for FY 2014 and the second to roll out a complete standard budget model for use in FY 2015 budget development. In addition to budget elements, RIDE will also be working on development of a best budgeting-practice guide and guidelines for resource allocation.

### **Facilities Report – Public Schoolhouse Assessment**

As part of the often-mentioned moratorium on school construction, part of that statute also charged RIDE with doing a statewide assessment of school-facility conditions statewide as well as of the capacity of local districts to address any identified shortcomings and to develop efficiency benchmarks for any work that would be done in reaction to those needs.

RIDE has conducted the required assessment and is putting the final touches on its report, which is entitled The Public Schoolhouse Assessment. This will be a discussion item at the next BOR meeting.

## **Public Remarks**

Deborah Perry – Executive Director of YWCA-RI – Sponsor of the Sheila C. "Skip" Nowell Academy Charter School - Spoke in support of the application.

Rose Mary Grant – Head of the Highlander Charter School – Spoke in support of the school's request for expansion from K-8 to PK-12.

John Hughes – Parent – Spoke in support of the Highlander Charter School request for expansion.

Wanda Brown – Spoke in support of the Highlander Charter School request for expansion.

Beata Nelken – Spoke in support of the Sheila C. "Skip" Nowell Academy Charter School application.

Patty Houlik – Spoke in support of the Highlander School request for expansion.

## **Chairman's Remarks**

Chairman Caruolo suggested turning the previously scheduled November 15<sup>th</sup> BOR Work Session into a regular voting meeting to vote on issues that may be ready to be voted on. He also mentioned that there may be a need to schedule a December 6<sup>th</sup> meeting, but that he would decide that later on.

## **Discussion Item**

### **Certification Test Updates and Passing Scores and the Temporary Initial Educator Certificate**

Acting Commissioner Abbott asked Lisa Foehr, Director of the Office of Educator Quality and Certification, to join him at the table to address the need for the BOR to approve, for the purpose of public review and comment, the certification tests in the areas of Latin, Theatre, School Counselor, and Superintendent.

Since the June 2012 BOR vote adopting a suite of certification tests for implementation, which would take effect on September 1, 2013, the Educational Testing Service (ETS) has converted the passing scores of two tests, Latin and Theatre, from an 800-point scale to a 200-point scale and also revised two additional tests, School Guidance and Counseling and School Superintendent, to ensure currency with the field.

Rhode Island educators have participated in the validation studies for the revised tests, and RIDE staff has reviewed the score-conversion process and has also sought feedback from the field to inform the recommendations. These recommendations have also been shared with CPAB (Certification Policy Advisory Board).

The overall suite of certification tests approved also included three new preliminary-certificate types with an implementation date of January 1, 2015, but based on requests from schools, districts, and educators, RIDE wishes to "fast-track" to January 1, 2013, one of these certificate types, the Temporary Initial Educator, which allows a teacher who is certified in another state to come in and work immediately without having to wait to take and pass the requisite tests to be certified in R.I.

### **Update on the PARCC Assessment**

Mary Ann Snider, Chief of Educator Excellence and Instructional Effectiveness, joined the table and answered questions around the costs associated with the implementation of a large-scale assessment, from getting buildings technology-ready to the purchasing of devices to having qualified tech support on staff to ensure that these systems run seamlessly. Although there will be additional costs to districts with the implementation and sustainability of the new PARCC assessments, districts already make sizable investments every year in technology, and the cost of the NECAP assessments that are currently in place will help offset some of those costs. There is also the 20-million dollar technology bond that will help offset the cost of getting buildings technology-ready in order to be able to have multiple students on computers simultaneously.

Chairman Caruolo requested that RIDE figure out how much it would cost to purchase a device equipped with software that will be able to support the PARCC assessment for every student statewide, then two-to-one, and three-to-one. He went on to stress the importance of getting this information ready to be shared with the "folks who control the money" sooner rather than later so as to avoid springing this sizable investment on them at the last minute. In addition to the size of the investment is the need to get a handle on the current spending at the local level to ensure that we are not wasting existing resources and that there isn't a money hole at the bottom of our plan. He went on to say that, given the amount of money necessary to implement this mandated program, there may be a need for a state law to get this done.

### **Update on the GED Regulations**

Andrea Castañeda, Chief of Accelerating School Performance; Sharon Lee, Director of the Office of Multiple Pathways; and Phillip Less, Coordinator of Adult Basic Education, joined the table and went over the data analysis the Regents had asked RIDE to gather on the number of individuals who took/retook/passed the GED over the last five years, and also what the projected costs will be based on the new GED test-administration fees.

### **Update on Charter School Applications/Request for Expansion**

Andrea Castañeda, Chief of the Division of Accelerating School Performance; Sharon Lee, Director of the Office of Multiple Pathways; and Bill Clark, Charter School Coordinator, joined Acting Commissioner Abbott at the table to go over the proposed request for expansion from the Highlander Charter School, as well as the overview of data that RIDE collected of schools across the country that have blended-learning models of teaching and

learning similar to those of the applications from the Sheila C. "Skip" Nowell Leadership Academy and the Village Green Virtual Charter High School.

The Highlander Charter School, currently a K-8 charter public school, is requesting to expand to a PK-12 charter public school. Although the school is in the last stages of its five-year renewal review, scheduled to be completed in the spring of 2013, RIDE brings the expansion request to the BOR at this time to enable the school to enroll a small cohort of 9<sup>th</sup> graders (20 students) in the coming academic year. Highlander is and has been on a remarkably strong trajectory of growth and is classified as a leading school under RIDE's new accountability system.

### **Approval Items**

#### **Approval of the expansion of the R.I. Civics Standards to include Economics and Geography and an expansion to the current Historical Perspectives Strand**

On a motion duly made by Regent Guida and seconded by Regent Forbes, it was

**VOTED:**        That                the Rhode Island Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education approves the expansion of the R.I. Civics Standards to include Economics and Geography and an expansion to the current Historical Perspectives Strand, as presented.

Vote:            5 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS:           G. Caruolo, R. Carothers, K. Forbes, P. Guida, M. Santos

NAYS:           0

#### **Approval of the proposed adoption of the Certification Tests Updates and Passing Scores and the Temporary Initial Educator Certificate, for the purpose of public review and comment**

On a motion duly made by Regent Santos and seconded by Regent Carothers, it was

**VOTED:**        That                the Rhode Island Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education approves, for the purpose of public review and comment, the proposed adoption of the converted and revised certification tests and passing scores and the proposed implementation of the Temporary Initial Educator Certificate for January 1, 2013, as presented.

Vote:            5 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: G. Caruolo, R. Carothers, K. Forbes, P. Guida, M. Santos

NAYS: 0

On a motion duly made by Regent Guida and seconded by Regent Carothers, it was

**VOTED:** That the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education adjourn the meeting.

Vote: 5 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: G. Caruolo, R. Carothers, K. Forbes, P. Guida, M. Santos

NAYS: 0

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.